

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1 and 2 and ADD new claim 5-6 in accordance with the following:

1. (currently amended) A method of managing a memory device, said memory device comprising having a memory area comprising at least one flash memory and a controller for controlling data writing ~~in to~~ to the memory area, the method comprising:

sending from a host computer to the controller a size of data to be written from the host computer ~~into~~ the memory area; and

causing the controller to estimate ~~estimating, by using the controller,~~ a length of time to be required for writing the data into the memory area on a basis of the size of the data and conditions of the memory area, said conditions indicating at least whether data evacuation is necessary.

2. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising, after causing the controller to estimate ~~said estimating a the~~ length of time, estimating electric power required for writing the data on a basis of the length of time.

3. (original) The method as claimed in claim 2 further comprising, after said estimating electric power, checking whether the data can be written into the memory area by using available electric power.

4. (original) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising, after said estimating a length of time, checking, by using the length of time, whether there is a malfunction of the memory device.

5. (new) A method comprising:

sending from a host computer to a controller of a memory device a size of data to be written from the host computer into a memory area including at least one flash memory of the memory device; and

estimating via the controller, a length of time required to write the data into the memory

area, based upon the size of the data and whether data evacuation is necessary.

6. (new) A method of managing a memory device having a memory area and a controller for controlling data writing in the memory area, the method comprising:

sending to the controller a size of data to be written into the memory area; and

estimating, by using the controller, a length of time to be required for writing the data into the memory area on a basis of the size of the data and conditions of the memory area;

estimating electric power required for writing the data on a basis of the length of time;
and

checking whether the data can be written into the memory area by using available electric power after estimating the electric power required.